

Town Topics



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

City Council Spotlight— Joe Barrentine



As the summer comes to an end and students start returning to their schools and campuses, I wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank some folks who helped make this a great summer here in the Jewel of Pierce County. Our summer hires in the Public Works Department worked tirelessly to keep the city looking great through the long, dry summer. The hanging flowers, beds and parks are a large part of the feeling of Fircrest and the staff did a great job managing our public spaces. The summer hires at the pool, the pool manager and lifeguards, did a superb job keeping our swimmers safe and managing the growing demand. With a nation-wide shortage of lifeguards, we can't take this great staff for granted. As you make your way to the final swim sessions of the year, please take a minute to thank the staff and invite them to come back next year! The last group I need to call out are all of the amazing volunteers who worked incredibly hard to make all our community events so special. We're truly blessed to have the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest, the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation and dozens of unaffiliated volunteers supporting all the events. Countless beautiful memories were created thanks to your efforts. Looking ahead, there are several big things happening in the coming months that you should keep an eye on and participate as desired.

New Police Chief

We'll be welcoming a new police chief soon and there will be opportunities to meet and get to know them.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Every few years the city's Comprehensive Plan must be updated. This plan is the guiding document for how the city will grow and evolve in the next few years. The process is underway and we hope you will get involved. There will be a Special City Council meeting on September 18 at 7 PM at City Hall where the Planning Commission will be invited to attend and public comments are encouraged.

Special Resident-Driven Committees

In the coming months, you will have a couple of opportunities to be involved in planning some big events. The mayor will be organizing a committee to plan the city's centennial celebrations, which is coming up in 2025. And, as many of you know, the tree that has been used as the city's holiday tree is sick and will need to be replaced. So there will be another committee that will look at the future of the city's holiday lights and the holiday tree.

History of the City

Major Edward Bowes, famed founder of radios' first amateur hour in the 1930's, was busy 25 years prior developing Washington's first pre-planned community of "**Regents Park**". Adhering to the ideals of the City Beautiful movement of the 1890's, his utopian society would be steeped in democracy, protection and equal accessibility to all public spaces, environmentally conscious thought and decision-making policies, and most importantly the creation of natural beauty that could be planned for and protected for succeeding generations to come.

Spring Lake Park became the central focal point of his development containing a carefully constructed man-made lake with an animal zoo, walking trails, and what today we would call *Gazebos*. Through thoughtful urban planning, the citizenry would be encouraged to gather in these dedicated park areas, thus creating increased opportunities to interact and strengthen community bonds and further enhance the community's social capital.

Do not for a moment assume that what makes Fircrest so special today was sheerly by accident. Careful planning, and foresight into the future put us in the enviable position we are in today. The City of Fircrest's 100-year anniversary is a scant two years away, and our forefathers' original vision of Fircrest is still alive and well today.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Fircrest Police



With Chief John Cheeseman's retirement last month, the City's search for its next regular Police Chief is underway. Our search will look for essentially three key skills: 1) a great Police Officer 2) a real believer in community participation and involvement (though Chief Cheesman will forever set the standard) and 3) a strong leader committed to staff development and training. Interviews were set for late July with a Community Open House to meet the Chief candidates on Thursday 7/27 at the Rec Center. Meanwhile, we reached out to the Sheriff for someone to fill in as the Interim Chief of Police. We are delighted to introduce County Sergeant Rob LaTour as our Interim Chief. We should say reintroduce, as Rob was previously a Fircrest Officer earlier in his career from 2003 to 2006. Chief LaTour has over 28 years of law enforcement experience, a degree in Administrative Management and a Masters in Organizational Leadership. Interim Chief LaTour will be assisted by Fircrest Sergeant John Villamor and Fircrest Sergeant Kevin Gollinger. We are still recruiting for two open Police Officer positions, so the extra help from Interim Chief LaTour as a working Chief (like Cheesman) is much appreciated and our thanks to the Sheriff's Department.



From 1925 to Today: Keeping Fircrest, Fircrest



In 2025 the City will celebrate its 100th birthday. Meanwhile we are updating our Comprehensive Plan to meet our share of the states growth and still preserve our community's character while keeping Fircrest, Fircrest. Cities and Counties are responsible to the State to plan for their share of the State's future population growth. Fircrest today is about 7,500 persons and is forecast to grow to about 9,500 by 2040. The proposed mixed use commercial/residential project in the City's northwest corner should provide for about a third of our future growth, leaving most of the current community as is. Not all of our future growth will be on the community edges. New State mandates, designed to help with more affordable housing, will provide for infill development allowing duplexes and accessory dwelling units (ADU) in single family zones. Our updated Comprehensive Plan and revised development codes will address how this will be regulated as far as lot size, parking, setbacks and overall fit with community character.

HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF



Fircrest

SCAN THE QR CODE AND
TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!



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

Edwards Family Aquatic Center



As the summer heat continues to embrace our beloved city, we are thrilled to announce the Edwards Family Aquatic Center Schedule for the month of

August. Our Parks & Recreation department has been hard at work to ensure that everyone has ample opportunity to beat the heat and enjoy a refreshing swim.

As the temperatures increase, we are doing our best to accommodate the rising demand for our community members. Pool capacity may differ between sessions and is set by pool management with an emphasis on swimmer and patron safety. Safety is of utmost importance to us, and pool management evaluates several factors during each swim session. These include but are not limited to, the swimmer-to-guard ratio, the existence of obstruction to vision, and the capability of the swimmers using the swimming pool.

Beginning on August 1st, we will be offering a new Adult Water Aerobics Class 8 -9 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will also continue to offer group swim lessons for children ages 4 and up and that are 32 inches tall at the top of the shoulder. Session 4 begins on August 7th and is 5 days a week for two consecutive weeks. Morning classes are offered from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Monday-Friday. Evening Swim Lessons are offered from 5:00-6:00 pm Monday-Friday. Swim Lesson Sign-ups will take place online through our RecDesk registration system the Thursday before the session begins. Online registration only; spots are limited.

As always, our dedicated lifeguards and staff will be present to ensure your safety and provide any assistance you may require. We kindly ask everyone to follow the

pool rules and guidelines, including appropriate swimwear, parental supervision for children, and respectful behavior towards fellow swimmers.

Please refer to our website or contact our office at 253-564-8177 for more information on these programs, registration details, and any updates regarding pool hours in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in making the Edwards Family Aquatic Center a welcoming and enjoyable place for all. We look forward to seeing you dive into the fun at our pool during the sunny days of August! Please reach out to our pool management for any questions regarding our upcoming programs or open public swim sessions.

PUBLIC SWIM SESSION SCHEDULE AUG 19TH - SEPT 1ST						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
LAP SWIM 6:30-9:30AM	LAP SWIM 6:30-9:30AM	LAP SWIM 6:30-9:30AM	LAP SWIM 6:30-9:30AM	LAP SWIM 6:30-9:30AM	RENTALS SEE ONLINE CALENDAR 8:30-10:30AM	RENTALS SEE ONLINE CALENDAR 8:30-10:30AM
OPEN SWIM 12:30-4:30PM	OPEN SWIM 12:30-4:30PM	OPEN SWIM 12:30-4:30PM	OPEN SWIM 12:30-4:30PM	OPEN SWIM 12:30-4:30PM	OPEN SWIM MID-DAY SESSION 11AM-2PM	OPEN SWIM MID-DAY SESSION 11AM-2PM
EVENING SWIM 6:30-8:30PM	FAMILY SWIM 6:30-8:30PM	EVENING SWIM 6:30-8:30PM	FAMILY SWIM 6:30-8:30PM	EVENING SWIM 6:30-8:30PM	OPEN SWIM AFTERNOON SESSION 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM AFTERNOON SESSION 2:30-5:30PM
EVENING SWIM 6-8PM						
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Parks & Recreation



As the summer season continues through August, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible events we've had the pleasure of hosting in the past months. Our Parks & Recreation department has been buzzing with activity, creating fun opportunities for our community to come together.

We kicked off the summer with our annual Strawberry Festival, where talented local musicians showcased their skills and the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest served up a record 880 strawberry shortcakes. The community turnout was fantastic, and we are grateful for your enthusiastic support in making these events a resounding success.

The 35th Annual Fircrest Picnic and Rod Run was another record setting event! On July 2nd Fircrest Park welcomed 425 classic and special interest vehicles for a day filled with automobiles, food, and music.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who participated, volunteered, and supported our summer events. Your enthusiasm and involvement have made these occasions truly special, creating lasting memories for all who participated.



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.

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Public Works

Capital Improvement Projects

Sewer:

- 44th St W & 67th Ave W Lift Station Upgrade
 - *Budgeted for construction in 2024
- Ongoing Lift Station Repairs and Maintenance
- Pipe Bursting
 - *Backyard main - 100 block between El Dorado & Farallone —Late Summer/Fall 2023

Water:

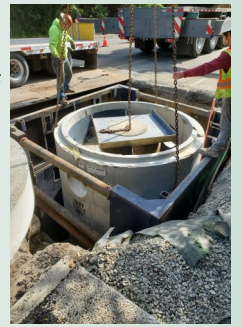
- Weathervane Booster Pump Generator Replacement
- Water Main Replacements
 - *Summit Grind and Asphalt Overlay to complete Water/Gas Main Project
 - *700 Block of Regents Blvd
 - *Rose St from Contra Costa to Del Monte
- Water Well Repairs and Maintenance
 - *Well #7 – completed
 - *Well #8 – additional repairs needed
- AMI Water Meter Exchange Program
 - *Installation process is approx. 40% complete

Stormwater:

- Storm Water Pre-Treatment Outfall Grant Project Emerson St and Estate Place
 - *5 structures have been installed to protect the head waters of Leach Creek
- Street Sweeping

Streets:

- Summit Grind and Asphalt Overlay to complete Water/Gas Main Project
- Emerson (southside) Sidewalk Extension from Woodside Dr to 67th Ave W
- Regents Blvd (west) Grind and Overlay from Alameda Ave to 67th Ave W
- South Orchard St Grind and Overlay from Regents Blvd to city line South of Holly Dr
- Pedestrian crossing on Electron at Contra Costa
- Crack Seal Program
- Stop bar and curb painting



Small Business Spotlight: Choppers Holistic Pet Food



Nestled in the heart of Fircrest, at 612 Regents Blvd, is the beloved local business, Chopper's Holistic Pet Food. Owned by local couple James Swanson and Walter Smith since May 2019, Chopper's is a beacon for pet parents seeking quality natural foods, delectable treats, and an eclectic range of toys and accessories for their furry family members.

While the charismatic James is often seen in-store, chatting with customers and offering expert advice, he's also part of a tight-knit team of five dedicated staff members. This includes three stalwarts from the previous store ownership, whose invaluable experience and dedication have contributed greatly to the store's continuous charm.

"Chopper's isn't just a pet food store, it's a cornerstone of the Fircrest community," says James. And indeed, the store's endearing personality is amplified by Betty, the store kitty, a favorite among customers and staff alike.

Beyond their delightful range of products, the team at Chopper's is deeply committed to the health and happiness of every pet in the community. In James' words, "We're not just selling pet food and toys, we're contributing to the well-being of our community's most beloved companions."

Open Monday to Friday from 10 AM-7 PM, and Saturday 10 AM-5 PM, Chopper's Holistic Pet Food invites all pet parents to discover their passion for pet wellness and to say hello to Betty, the famous store kitty!

