



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

### City Council Spotlight— Jim Andrews



The United States observes 11 federal holidays; we recognize Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's; Juneteenth and Labor Day; and Days that honor the accomplishments of great leaders, such as Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and Martin Luther King Jr. Independence Day celebrates the birth of our nation. Memorial Day honors those lost in every American war since the Revolution. And finally, Veterans Day. This day is to honor the men and women who are serving and those who have served in our military.

Over one million Americans currently serve in the military. The VA estimates there are another 20 million living military Veterans. Less than 7 percent of all living Americans have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces. These are individuals who have felt the need to serve and protect our great nation and way of life.

Our schools in the city have always had a Veterans Day assembly and make sure to invite all veterans to be their honored guests. Many of our neighboring cities have parades and events for veterans, and we see heartfelt displays of gratitude for our sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

But with these ceremonies, they show a reverence for the uniform and the flag sewn to the shoulder and what it represents and know that each man or woman in uniform could be doing something else, serving their self-interests, and possibly making more money elsewhere. Many veterans are honored to be on the receiving end of a handshake from anyone who feels compelled to thank a uniformed serviceman or veteran, because respect and gratitude are mutual.

I would like to see our city be more involved in honoring our veterans on Veterans Day. We do lots of other events and hope that next year we can bring our community together with a celebration on Veterans Day to honor those who are serving and have served.

And as a final note, please remember to vote in this upcoming election. Every vote counts.

### Police



It has been a busy few months for your Fircrest Police officers. National Night Out was a huge success! Thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors, and citizens who came out and enjoyed the evening with us. Our city's commitment to partnering with the police department is something very special and we are humbled to serve this community and your families and businesses.

Our dispatching partner, South Sound 911 (SS911), has partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHA) to increase SS911's ability to field emergency calls quicker by referring acute mental health calls to our mental health professional partners and counselors. If you or someone you care about is needing to talk with someone, please call 988 anytime. 988 is a direct connection with Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Conversations are private, and the call taker on the other end is trained and has resources available for those seeking help. SAMHA has a website for more information: <http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988>

Our kids are back to school and mornings are getting darker. Our officers are spending time in school zones, namely as a presence, but if necessary, will enforce School Zone speeding, crosswalk, and distracted driving violations. So please slow down, wait for pedestrians to fully cross the road, and stay off your cell phones. Also, remember to stop for school buses when the red STOP paddle is out on two lane roadways.

Halloween is just around the corner and our department is committed to ensuring it is a safe night, but we will need your help. Please keep field of vision in mind when buying kids' costumes and ensuring we have safety lighting or reflective material on our little ones.

As always, your Police Department is here to serve your public safety needs and are looking forward to a great fall.



# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Planning & Building

We are thrilled to announce that Mark Newman has joined our team as the City's Community Development Director. Mr. Newman is an AICP-certified planner and has served as the Community Development Director and Interim Public Works Director for the City of Pacific.

He has previous planning experience with the cities of Phoenix, Mukilteo, and Sammamish and with Pierce County Sewer. He earned a bachelor's degree from Temple University and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from UC Irvine.

Mr. Newman brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in urban planning, community development, and public works. We are confident that his expertise will be invaluable to our team as we continue to work towards our goals.



Please join us in welcoming Mark to our team!

## Public Works: CITY OF FIRCREST INFILTRATION AND INFLOW (I&I) REDUCTION PROGRAM

### WHAT IS INFILTRATION AND INFLOW (I&I), AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Before the 1940s, it was common to have stormwater from roof downspouts connected to side or rear yard sewer lines. Separating Storm Water from Sewage has been required in Fircrest since 1947.

"IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO DISCHARGE OR CAUSE TO BE DISCHARGED ANY STORM SEWAGE INTO THE SANITARY SEWERS OF THE CITY OF FIRCREST." (Ord. 1280 § 2, 2001 and Ord. 116 § 2, 1947).

Since the early 2000s, the City of Fircrest has actively been working to reduce INFILTRATION whereby groundwater seeps into cracked pipes or joints and where stormwater gets in through leaky utility holes.

Excess I&I increases sewer treatment costs and individual bills and causes environmental pollution.

INFLOW from roof gutters, sump pumps, and other clear water connections into the sanitary sewer system must be reduced and disconnected. Please check your downspouts and, if connected, disconnect and cap the sewer inlet. Use a splash block or otherwise divert downspouts away from your building. For downspouts, consider rain barrels or rain gardens.

Fircrest is required to further reduce its I&I into the Tacoma sewage treatment system. For more information, contact us at [publicworks@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:publicworks@cityoffircrest.net).

**INCORRECT**



**CORRECT**



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



# Serving the Community Since 1925

## Parks & Recreation: Whittier Park Master Plan

The Whittier Park Master Plan project is currently underway and presents an opportunity for the Parks and Recreation team to lead a community project that aligns with Fircrest's mission of enhancing the quality of life for the city's citizens. The master planning process offers a unique chance to bring together City staff, the community, and stakeholders to unite the project under a common set of goals. Our landscape architect consultants at AHBL have initiated the planning process by identifying critical features and components that will drive the design, schedule, and budget. AHBL's team combines expertise in master planning and multidisciplinary design work, enabling them to facilitate well-informed decisions early in the project to ensure that the master planning documents not only meet but exceed the project goals and are constructible.

### Park Programming and Community Outreach

The Whittier Park Master Planning Process will incorporate an inclusive outreach strategy that fosters shared ownership of ideas among stakeholders and community members. The planning team members have collectively participated in and led numerous charrettes and outreach processes over the past two decades. They will facilitate meaningful and inclusive public outreach sessions, including one or more community surveys.

**Public Engagement Session 1** — The AHBL team will host two public engagement sessions. The first outreach event will gather public input for the future of Whittier Park. We will review site opportunities and constraints, document general needs and desires, and create the initial conceptual site plan options. This meeting will take place at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. Stay tuned for meeting dates and times.

**Conceptual Master Plan Options** - With the Public Engagement Session 1 and research tasks complete, AHBL will develop at least three conceptual site plan concepts to encompass a diverse range of possibilities and opportunities.

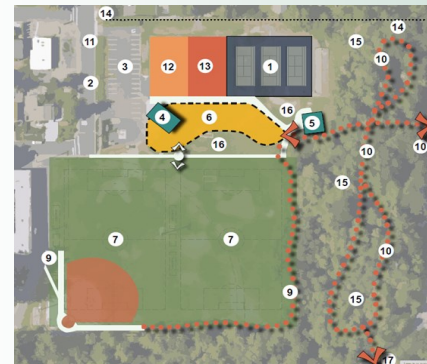
Additionally, we will prepare character image boards, conceptual site models, and a rough order of magnitude cost estimate for each concept.

**Public Engagement Session 2** - After updating the concepts, the second outreach event will feature presentations of the refined conceptual plans based on the survey and Public Engagement Session 1 in an open house format at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center. Stay tuned for meeting dates and times.

### Final Phase and Master Plan Development

Phase 3 marks the culmination of the master planning process, where the final plan will emerge, either as a preferred design or a combination of several site options. AHBL will build on decisions, outcomes, and feedback from surveys, meetings, and initial concepts to prepare a draft Master Plan for review and comments by City staff and the Fircrest City Council. This will also include a conceptual cost estimate of Master Plan elements, indicating anticipated cost ranges. AHBL will collaborate with City staff to develop a phasing plan, providing recommendations on how to phase future projects for Whittier Park.

**Public Engagement Session 3** — AHBL will incorporate review comments into a final Master Plan and present it to the City Council at a City Council Meeting.

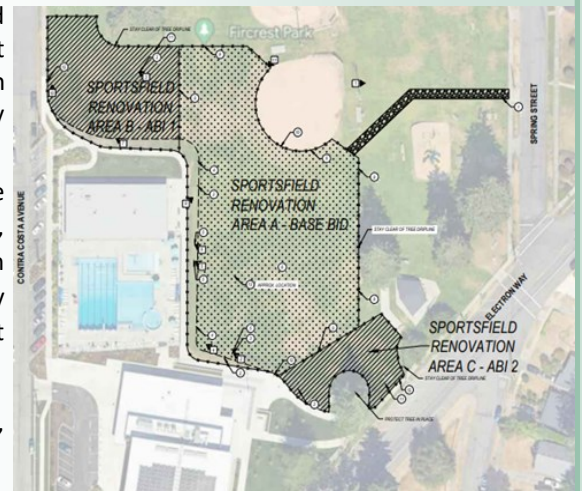


## Parks & Recreation: Fircrest Park Athletic Field Improvements

The south end of Fircrest Park, stretching from between the baseball fields to the Community Center Plaza, will be fenced off for up to six months, starting in the third week of September. The City has contracted with landscape architect Robert Droll for project design, construction bid document preparation, and construction administration services, all aimed at restoring the natural grass athletic field at the south end of Fircrest Park. This project has three main goals: achieving uniform field planarity, establishing an even stand of natural grass, and addressing the field lighting at Fircrest Park. The scope of work served as the foundation for RCO Grant 20-1232 DEV in the Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Program, with a grant award of \$317,030, split evenly between the City of Fircrest and RCO.

As mentioned earlier, the south end of Fircrest Park, from the area between the baseball fields to the Community Center Plaza, will be fenced off for up to six months, beginning in the third week of September. This timeline encompasses the construction phase and allows sufficient time for the natural sod to establish itself properly into early spring. We appreciate your patience as we strive to enhance the amenities at Fircrest Park, providing improved opportunities for play, recreation, and sports.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact Jeff Grover, Parks & Recreation Director, at 253-564-8177.



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

## Parks & Recreation: MEET MURPHY, FIRCREST'S TOWN BEAR!

We've got some exciting news to share with you all about our beloved Fircrest Town Bear, Murphy! Murphy is no ordinary bear; he's the embodiment of happiness, friendliness, and fun, and he's all about bringing our community together. He's been a strong advocate for Fircrest events, and his mission is to foster a sense of togetherness right here in the great city of Fircrest! Now, you might be wondering, who's Murphy named after? Well, it's none other than Roy H. Murphy! And his catchphrase? "See you at the Park!" – because that's where the fun begins.

Murphy has been our unofficial mascot since 2021, when our City of Fircrest Community Event Specialist turned this dream into a reality. His debut event was Medallion Madness, which was created to inject some much-needed fun into our community during the pandemic. Since then, you've probably spotted Murphy on promo posters, banners, temporary tattoos, stickers, social media posts, and even sugar cookies!

But here's the big news – our dream of bringing Murphy to life has come true! We're thrilled to announce that our Murphy Mascot costume will be arriving by the end of this year. Just picture the joy on everyone's faces when they get to high five or fist bump Murphy in person! Stay tuned for his "birthday" event, coming soon.

This fantastic endeavor wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our community. Thanks to Westside Disposal, Fircrest Parks & Recreation Foundation, Maggie Magee's, and Mimi's Tea, we've been able to bring Murphy to life. Mark your calendars and get ready to meet Murphy, the bear who's here to make Fircrest a happier and more connected place for all of us!

See you at the Park!



## Small Business Spotlight: Espresso Yourself

Espresso Yourself's owner, Bryce Kalland, took ownership in 2001. The business was small and mostly served coffee, espressos and pastries. Bryce had attended chef school in Portland and was looking for ways to be creative. He added soups, salads, sandwiches and specialty items. Business is now booming thanks to the loyalty of the locals. Bryce and his wife, Christy, live in Fircrest and enjoy being part of the community, volunteering for functions and supporting various projects. All four of their children have worked at 'the shop' at one point or another, and they are looking forward to hiring their grandchildren in the future. The number one item Espresso Yourself is known for is their fair scones that are served year round. They are larger, softer, and filled with lots of butter and raspberry jam. The coffee shop fills up with locals and visitors who are socializing over coffee, breakfast or lunch. Need a job? Drop off a resume. Bryce and the friendly staff look forward to serving you.



### Hours:

Monday through Friday 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM  
Saturday 6:00AM to 6:30 PM  
Sunday 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### Address:

1009 Regents Blvd  
Fircrest, WA  
253-564-3006