

City of Fircrest Town Topics

June 2024

CITY COUNCIL

Shannon Reynolds, *Mayor*
Nikki Bufford, *Mayor Pro Tempore*
David M. Viafore
Brett Wittner
Karen Mauer-Smith
Hunter T. George
Jim Andrews

Councilmember Spotlight: Brett Wittner



I find it amazing how quickly time moves as I get older. It seems like 2024 had just begun, and now we are already approaching the middle of the year. With the calendar moving so quickly, I wanted to share some information about the planning that is currently happening for Fircrest's 100th anniversary celebration.

In 2023, the Fircrest City Council created the Centennial Committee. The committee consists of Mayor Shannon Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tempore Nikki Bufford (committee chair), Councilmember Brett Wittner, City Manager Dawn Masko, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Grover, Community Events Specialist Judy Schmidtke, and Public Works Director Tyler Bemis. The Centennial Committee meets at least once a month, and is busy planning many exciting events for 2025. Details of those events will be announced in the near future.

The Centennial Committee consists of five different subcommittees. Those subcommittees are:

Events, Activities, and Community Engagement

Beautification

Historical Research

Communications and Marketing

Sponsorship and Fundraising

As a part of the Centennial Committee, I serve as the chair of the Historical Research Subcommittee. I spend several hours each week researching the history of Fircrest and meeting with long-time Fircrest residents and those who consider themselves Fircrest history experts. In addition to having a great deal of fun during the exciting events planned for 2025, I hope that every resident of Fircrest learns more about the incredible history of Fircrest, and what makes it different than just about any other city. I would encourage anyone who shares my love of Fircrest to reach out to me via email at bwittner@cityoffircrest.net. I would love to hear your stories about what it means to live in Fircrest. In addition, the Historical Research Subcommittee is interested in volunteers who might be interested in helping to plan for some of our exciting events. Please feel free to email me, stop by and visit at a City Council meeting, or grab me if you see me out and about the city.

I would be remiss not to say that the other subcommittees are also looking for volunteers. Feel free to reach out to the Centennial Committee at Centennial@cityoffircrest.net if you would like to get involved.

I can't wait for 2025. It will be here before you know it.

Edwards Family Aquatic Center

Admission:

Open Swim Cost – Resident \$5 | Non-Resident \$10

Evening Swim Cost – Resident \$4 | Non-Resident \$8

10 Entries Punch Pass – Resident \$45 | Non-Resident \$90

Fircrest Resident Season Pass – 1st Pass \$70 | Additional Passes \$40

As with last year, the Family Season Passes are limited to Fircrest Residents Only. (Punch Cards are available for both Fircrest Residents and Non-Residents)

PUBLIC SWIM SESSION SCHEDULE JUN 17TH - AUG 18TH						
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
LAP SWIM 6:30-7:30AM		LAP SWIM 6:30-7:30AM		LAP SWIM 6:30-7:30AM	RENTALS 8:30-10:30AM	RENTALS 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
OPEN SWIM 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM AFTERNOON SESSION 2:30-5:30PM	OPEN SWIM AFTERNOON SESSION 2:30-5:30PM
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	EVENING SWIM 6-8PM	EVENING SWIM 6-8PM
LAP SWIM RESIDENT \$4 NON-RES \$8	OPEN SWIM RESIDENT \$5 NON-RES \$10	EVENING SWIM RESIDENT \$4 NON-RES \$8	FAMILY SWIM RESIDENT \$4 NON-RES \$8	EVENING SWIM RESIDENT \$4 NON-RES \$8	10 ENTRIES PUNCH PASS RESIDENT \$45 NON-RES \$90	FIRCREST RESIDENT SEASON PASS 1ST PASS \$70 ADDITIONAL \$40

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.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Edwards Family Aquatic Center Cont.



SWIMMING POOL

These schedules are provided as a reference. Schedule and prices are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please call 253-564-8188 or visit our website: <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/government/parks-and-recreation/swimming-pool/pool-schedule/>

Monday – Friday

Lap Swim Monday, Wednesday, & Friday –
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM
Open Swim – 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Evening Swim – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, Sunday

Private Pool Rentals – 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Open Swim Mid-Day Session – 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Open Swim Afternoon Session – 2:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Evening Swim Session – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Adult Lap Swim

Lap swim is for those 18 and older wishing to swim on their own and at their own pace. There is no coach on deck and lanes are first come first served. Days and times vary throughout the season. Please see schedule.

Group Swimming Lessons:

- **Ages and Height:** For children ages 4+ and at least 32 inches tall at the shoulder.
- **Lesson Schedule:** Every half hour.
- **Ratios and Sessions:**
 - Ratio:** 5:1 student to instructor.
 - Sessions:** 5 days a week for two consecutive weeks.
 - Morning Classes:** 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Monday – Friday.
 - Evening Classes:** 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

Sign-Ups:

- **General Registration:** Thursday & Friday before each session.
- **Session 2 Exception:**
 - * **Resident Registration:** Wednesday, July 3rd.
 - * **Non-Resident Registration:** Friday, July 5th.
- **Online Only:** Spots are limited.



Fircrest Parks and Recreation



Fircrest Day Camp

Enjoy an unforgettable summer with Fircrest Parks and Recreation's Summer Day Camp, featuring 6 weeks of excitement, exploration, and skill-building activities.

Dates: Monday through Friday, July 8th – August 16th

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

What to Expect:

- **Exploration:** Neighborhood walks to discover community wonders.
- **Skill Building:** Team-building games and activities for cooperation and leadership.
- **Swimming:** Pool sessions for cooling off and having fun.
- **Crafts and More:** Hands-on craft projects and various fun activities.

Why Choose Us:

- **Peer Interaction:** Opportunities to socialize, make friends, and create lasting memories.
- **Structured Environment:** Safe, structured, and adventure-filled daily experiences.

Fees:

- Resident Fee: \$165.00
- Non-Resident Fee: \$195.00

Reserve your place on our website: <https://fircrest.recdesk.com/Community/Program?category=12>



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

Planning & Building

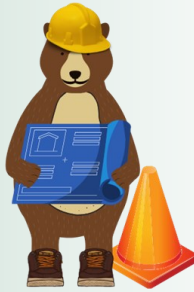
The sunny weather means more businesses are out soliciting services.

The City of Fircrest requires a transient merchant registration in addition to the general business license for door-to-door solicitors, peddlers, or canvassers.

Exemptions:

- ⇒ Garage sales, yard sales, bake sales, occasional parties or other isolated sales. These are limited to no more than four such sales per year.
- ⇒ Minors engaged in babysitting, delivery of newspapers, lawn mowing, car washing, and similar activities.
- ⇒ Nonprofit organizations (proof provided) are required to apply for a city business license but are exempt from the fee.

Please contact staff for more information.



Spring 2024 Highlights

1. The City is working to fill an open vacancy on the Planning Commission and the Assistant Planner/Permit Coordinator/Code Enforcement Officer role. We hope to be fully staffed by Summer 2024.
2. As of early May 2024, the P&B Department has processed 56 active permits:
 - 1 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Permit
 - 15 Building Remodel Permits
 - 1 Demolition Permit
 - 3 Fire Prevent Permits
 - 21 Mechanical Permits
 - 10 Plumbing Permits
 - 4 Reroofing Permits

Important Dates

June 11, 2024 – 2024 Comprehensive Plan Survey Results Discussion, 7:00 PM @ City Hall Council Chambers

June 17, 2024 – Middle Housing Kick-Off Presentation by Kimley-Horn & Associates, 6:00 PM @ City Hall Council Chambers

July 8, 2024 – Planning Commission, 6:00 PM @ City Hall Council Chambers

Check the City's website for agendas and further details.

Public Works: Water Conservation Tips



In our ongoing efforts to promote, educate, and inform residents about the importance of water efficiency, the City of Fircrest encourages everyone to join us in conserving water for future generations and the environment. Here are some essential conservation tips:

1. **Apply Organic Mulch:** Spread a layer of organic mulch around plants to retain moisture, which in turn saves water, time, and money.
2. **Check Soil Moisture:** Before watering your lawn or garden, check the root zone for moisture using a spade or trowel. If the soil is still moist two inches beneath the surface, you likely have enough water. Alternatively, you can gauge moisture levels by inserting your finger into the soil.
3. **Use Timers:** When watering your lawn or garden, set a kitchen timer to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons per minute, so this simple reminder can significantly reduce water wastage.
4. **Choose Sprinklers Wisely:** Opt for sprinklers that deliver large drops of water close to the ground. Smaller water drops and mist often evaporate before reaching the soil, wasting water.
5. **Water Only When Necessary:** Avoid overwatering, as more plants die from excess water than from insufficient hydration. Water only when needed, based on the specific requirements of your plants and soil conditions.
6. **Thatch and Aerate:** Thatch and aerate your lawn at least once a year. This helps water penetrate the soil more effectively, reaching the roots rather than running off the surface.

By following these tips, residents can not only conserve water but also save time and money while contributing to the sustainability of their environment. We appreciate your cooperation in our water conservation efforts.

Serving the Community Since 1925

Police: Washington State Implements New Police Pursuit Law for Safer Communities



Washington State has enacted a new police pursuit law to enhance public safety while ensuring responsible law enforcement practices. The vehicle pursuit law will change next month after the legislature passes I-2113.

The revised law states: *"(1) A peace officer may not engage in a vehicular pursuit, unless:*

- (a) There is reasonable suspicion that a person has violated the law;*
- (b) The pursuit is necessary for the purpose of identifying or apprehending the person;*
- (c) The person poses a threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit under the circumstances."*

Interdiction could involve using technology to track suspects or coordinating with other agencies to intercept them more safely. By encouraging these alternatives, the law seeks to reduce the potential for accidents, injuries, or fatalities resulting from high-speed pursuits.

Additionally, the law mandates comprehensive training for law enforcement personnel on the new pursuit guidelines. This training is crucial in ensuring that officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions in dynamic situations. Our officers recently completed Emergency Vehicle Operations Courses in anticipation of the new law going into effect on June 6th.

Small Business Spotlight: Costless Pharmacy and Wellness



Cost Less Pharmacy and Wellness is a family-owned and operated independent pharmacy. We have been in this location since 2018, but our roots in the community go back to the 1990s when our original location, next door to the old Manley's Grocery Store, was opened by Dale and Lynette Bisceglia and was there until 2012. In 2016, Nick Bisceglia and Hien Tran teamed up with the goal of reopening Cost Less Pharmacy in the Fircrest Community, and that goal came to life in January of 2018. Hien used to oversee all the MultiCare pharmacies and Nick grew up working in his parents' pharmacy since he was about 10.

Together, we had a pretty solid background for this kind of business, and we knew what kind of pharmacy we wanted to be within the Fircrest Community. However, being and growing an independent pharmacy is tough. We lured Dale out of retirement (he's there 3 days a week with us now) to help kickstart our mission. We were determined to see this grow because the experiences most people have in a pharmacy are ones of no direct attention towards you or your family and little to no care about your pocketbook. You're basically just another number in line. At our pharmacy, we are really trying to change that aspect. We make it our priority to try to get to know you and your family if you visit us at our store. Accuracy is paramount, but so is the human aspect of pharmacy/health care, and in many places, that seems to be dying.

Our pharmacists are always accessible for questions or concerns, and our staff is always there to help you find what you need, and if we don't have it, we will help you track it down. During the height of the COVID pandemic, we really got to show what and how pharmacy, in our eyes, should be. That is when our name in the area really started getting around, and all we did was make it as easy as possible for our residents to come in and get their desired vaccines and medications. Less hassle for you is less hassle for us. At our pharmacy, we also try to be very aware of the cost of medications. In recent years, costs have skyrocketed with what patients are expected to pay, even with great insurance. At the root of this problem are the Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and their profit-driven formularies, which I could go on about for another hour, but that is for another time. What we try to do is help keep your costs down as much as possible by sometimes not involving your insurance at all. Often our in-store generic medication pricing is better than what your insurance can offer you, and we encourage everyone to ask about that when they visit our pharmacy.

Other than our pharmacy, our store offers a great little card and gift shop filled with unique items from local artisans and a nice little selection of serious and snarky cards, something for most any occasion. Our pharmacy believes in commitment to growth within our store and the community. Within our store, we obviously have hired a lot of local staff, but some of them are younger, high school or college-aged. We like to encourage them to stick to their goals, and we are very proud to share that Gillian, one of our assistants, will be attending WSU School of Pharmacy next year, and we couldn't be more excited for her. Outside the store, our staff and customers all have special things to them, and we do our best to support those interests as best we can, whether it be with promotion, donations, or volunteer support. One of our favorite things has always been supporting National Night Out with retired Chief Cheesman. We think that has been and will continue to be such a great event for the community.