



## City Manager's Update July 19, 2024

**To:** Fircrest City Council  
**From:** Dawn Masko, City Manager  
**Date:** July 19, 2024  
**Subject:** City Manager's Weekly Update



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### Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

Below is the weekly overview of upcoming events, meetings, and other items of interest for the City. The update includes reports from City departments on various programs, projects, and achievements.

#### 1. Fircrest Fun Days

It's finally here! [Fircrest Fun Days](#) starts **today** at 5:00 PM at Fircrest Park. Stop by the park to visit the Kidz Kraft Maker Booths, grab a bite to eat from the many food trucks on-site, enjoy field competitions and games, and show off your cool dance moves at the 80s' Dance Party. Saturday's festivities kick off at 8:00 AM with Yoga in the Park and continue all day, culminating with a spectacular firework show at 10:00 PM. Fun activities include live entertainment with bands, carnival games, hula lessons, kid karaoke, and roving performers; vendor booths; delicious food trucks; a beer garden; pie contest and junior bake-off; a watermelon eating contest; dog adoption event; a selfie station; and the Furry 4K Pet Walk. Stroll through the many vendor booths while enjoying roving entertainment and listening to live music. The event runs from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, and 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Plan your day by checking out a [full schedule of events](#) on the City's website. You won't want to miss this annual Fircrest tradition!

*Fun Fact: Fircrest residents have been enjoying this annual event since 1957. It was originally called Street-O-Rama to celebrate the streets being paved.*

#### 2. Council Meeting Agenda Items – July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

- Planning Commission Appointment
- National Night Out Proclamation
- Resolution – RCO Grant Application – Fircrest Park Backstop Project
- Resolution – South Orchard Street Grind & Overlay Contract Change Order
- Resolution – Interlocal Agreement with Tacoma – So. Orchard St. Grind & Overlay Project

#### 3. Administration Update

Administration highlights include:

- Congratulations to Arlette Burkhart, who was appointed as City Clerk on July 8<sup>th</sup>. City Clerk Burkhart has been serving as the Acting City Clerk for the past year and just met the qualifications to apply for her Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Congratulations Arlette!

- Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland’s office informed the City that the City’s funding request for the Alameda Avenue – Emerson Street to Rosewood Lane – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project was included in the House Appropriation Committee’s Fiscal Year 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. We will continue to be informed as the House goes through its Appropriations process, which can take months. The City requested \$1,432,200 in FY25 Community Project Funding (CPF) under the Highway Infrastructure Program. The total estimated project cost is \$1,779,000, with a City match of \$355,800.

Thank you to City Clerk Arlette Burkhart, Public Works Director Tyler Bemis, and Community Development Director Mark Newman, who provided invaluable assistance with submitting this funding request on a very tight timeline. The City received notice of the funding process late on a Thursday afternoon, with the application being due by that Monday afternoon. Many thanks also to Representative Mari Leavitt, Representative Dan Bronoske, Senator T’wina Nobles, University Place City Manager Steve Sugg, Tacoma Public Schools Executive Director of Planning & Construction Morris Aldridge, and Jim Dugan, Parametrix Owner’s Representative to TPS construction project, who all worked with me on letters of support over the weekend.

- Mayor Shannon Reynolds, Councilmember Hunter George (Planning Liaison), City Manager Dawn Masko, and Community Development Director Mark Newman interviewed two great candidates for the vacant Planning Commissioner position. Congratulations to Andreas Schonger, who was recommended for appointment at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.
  - City Manager Dawn Masko coordinated with City Attorney Robert Zeinemann and Project Consultant Bob Jean to prepare a termination letter for the Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Residential for the Prose Project.
  - The Investment Committee met this past week to discuss the City’s cash balances and potential investment opportunities. Committee members Mayor Shannon Reynolds, Councilmember David Viafore, Councilmember Brett Wittner, and Interim Finance Director Julie Dunbar were in attendance, as well as City Manager Masko and City Clerk Burkhart. The Committee will be meeting again in a few weeks for further discussion.
  - City Manager Masko worked with City of Tacoma staff and City Attorney Joanna Eide to finalize the Interlocal Agreement for the South Orchard Street Grind & Overlay Project.
  - City Clerk Burkhart continued working with Police Chief Ron Schaub on the proposed updates to the Civil Service Rules.
  - Congratulations to Dorothy Cottrill, who was recently hired as Recreation Office Assistant. Dorothy has been a Recreation Leader with the City for the past two years.
  - Congratulations also to Gina Costanti-Eacrett, who has transitioned from a temporary Court Clerk position to a permanent Court Clerk I position.
  - City Manager Masko continued evaluating year-to-date and historical revenues and expenditures, met with attorneys on various issues, and met with University Place City Manager Sugg regarding a youth sports partnership.
  - City Manager Masko has also been fasting in preparation for judging the FirCRUST Pie Contest this weekend.
  - Happy Birthday to Utility Worker II Tim Piercy, Detective John Roberts, and Utility Worker II Salvador Marez, who all have birthdays this week!
  - The City received six public records requests this week, bringing the 2024 total to 179 requests.
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- In the last 30 days, the City’s website has had 63,208 page views from 21,280 users. Sessions are up 74%, and users are up 60% from the previous 30 days.

#### **4. Finance Department Update**

- Interim Finance Director Julie Dunbar continued working on bank reconciliations and month-end reports and reviewed daily cash, utility billing transactions, accounts payable, and payroll.
- Interim Finance Director Dunbar and Accountant I Wanda Wells met with Public Works Director Tyler Bemis, PW Office Coordinator Sherry Canavan, and City Clerk Arlette Burkhart to discuss Public Works grants, including tracking, billing, and reporting responsibilities. The group agreed on the importance of continued collaboration between Public Works and Finance and will continue to meet regularly in the future.
- Interim Director Dunbar and Accountant Wells also met with Community Development Director Mark Newman to discuss planning and building grants and continuing to collaborate on grants in the future.
- The electronic timesheet program is going great. The vendor has nearly completed configuring the system, and we are slated to “Go Live” on August 5th. All staff have been provided with training and login materials, and about 90% of staff are already utilizing the system. Thanks to Accountant II Megan Ryan for her continued efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the electronic timesheet program and that staff’s questions are promptly answered.
- Administrative Assistant Sierra Lee completed an online Excel course this month and is looking forward to using her new skills in the course of her job.
- Interim Director Dunbar met with IT Systems Coordinator Chris Bunger to continue discussions surrounding past, current, and future IT issues. The quarterly business review meeting with Lock Systems, the City’s I.T. managed service provider, is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. Planning & Building Update**

The City’s middle housing consultant, Kimley-Horn, will host an Open House on Tuesday, July 30th, at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to share middle housing strategies, engage in small discussion groups, and obtain community feedback. Stay tuned to the Middle Housing [webpage](#) for more information.

##### Permitting & Current Planning

- We continue to be busy issuing over-the-counter (OTC) building, mechanical, plumbing, and reroofing permits. Applicants are receiving same-day or one-business-day turnaround time for OTC permits. For larger projects and remodel permits, the City’s building reviewer is running 2-3 weeks behind schedule. Please check in with our team so that your project stays on schedule.
  - We know that summertime can be busy with vacations, holidays, and also home renovation projects. Just a friendly reminder to check with the Planning & Building Department ahead of time before you start construction on your new deck, covered patio, or accessory structure to first verify whether a permit is required. For new plumbing and mechanical work, a good rule of thumb is that a remodel permit will be required when any drywall is removed. Exposed framing, pipes, and insulation, all indicate that a remodel permit is required, along with floor plans showing where the work is located. You can contact Assistant Planner Natasha Kolostyak at 253-238-4125 or email at [nkolostyak@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:nkolostyak@cityoffircrest.net) with any questions.
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- The Planning Commission held a special meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss middle housing alternative options provided by the Department of Commerce and the SSHA<sup>3</sup>P CLIHP Grant presentation materials. Although the Commission lacked a quorum, it was still able to review agenda items requiring no action.
- The City of Tacoma is currently reviewing a land use application for the Cor Deo School relocation at Praise Covenant Church at 3501 So. Orchard St. (across from Holly Drive.) The proposal is for a conditional use permit to relocate the school (grades K-8) to the existing site and to place portable classrooms along the rear property line. Interested parties can access the entire application package at <https://www.tacomapermits.org/public-notice-map> by entering the permit number (LU24-0086) in the search field on the right-hand side of the map. You may also access the permit directly at <https://aca.accela.com/TACOMA/Default.aspx> by putting the permit number in the search field. All documents can be provided directly upon request.

### Code Enforcement

- Community Development Director Mark Newman spent time reviewing sign code violations and potential right-of-way encroachments this week.
- The City received four new code enforcement requests this week:
  - Concern over trash bins being used to reserve public street parking at the 900 block of Dartmouth Street. City staff is currently investigating this issue.
  - Concern about an overparked car longer than 72 hours that is blocking garbage trucks and the street sweeper. City staff is currently investigating this issue.
  - Concern regarding overhanging vegetation along the 700 block of Yale Street. Public Works is investigating this issue.
  - Concern over temporary political signs placed in the clear visibility triangle and obstructing traffic at Alameda Avenue and Drake Street. Staff removed the signs and contacted their owners so that the signs could be picked up.
- Additionally, the City is aware of transient merchants soliciting residents without a permit and is contacting all known businesses in violation of [FMC 5.08](#).
- Code Enforcement Officer Kolostyak provided Director Newman with an update on several of the 41 Code Enforcement cases in 2024. Staff conducted a site visit on June 25<sup>th</sup> for the cases listed below and did not notice any existing violations. As a result, the following cases have been closed:
  - CE24-008 – Overparked cars along the 400 block of Contra Costa Avenue.
  - CE24-011 – Overparked car along the 1400 block of Cherry Avenue.
  - CE24-013 – Graffiti on a dumpster at the 6300 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Street West.
  - CE24-015 – Overgrown vegetation and RV used as a residence along the 200 block of Alameda Avenue.
  - CE24-030 – Overgrown vegetation & broken window along the 500 block of Berkeley Ave.
  - CE24-033 – Overgrown vegetation along the 1400 block of Evergreen Place.
  - CE24-034 – Overgrown vegetation along the 100 block of Regents Blvd.

### Long Range Planning

- CD Director Newman compiled CC&R plat data and reviewed Middle Housing consultant presentation materials in advance of the July 30<sup>th</sup> Open House. Additionally, our consultant will have a booth at Fircrest FUN Days on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.
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- Share input on the updated draft middle housing model ordinance and user guide [here](#). This update reflects changes based on [HB 2321](#), passed in 2024 to revise [HB 1110](#) (2023), and comments received to date. Commerce requests feedback by August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The intersection of S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street and S. Mildred Street is expected to see growth in future years. By 2041, Sound Transit plans to extend the Tacoma Link light rail to this intersection and new housing is already on the horizon. While these plans and associated development, including new housing already on the horizon, will bring exciting economic opportunities to the area, we also know that growth and change can be challenging for local businesses and residents. That’s why a group of local partners, including Pierce Transit, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma Housing Authority, and local cities, are coming together to think through a vision and alternatives for equitable transit-oriented development in the area. Please tell us your hopes, vision, and concerns for the area in this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/4CornersPC> and help us share this information with other community members. Additional information is available on the new webpage for the [Four Corners/Thriving Communities update](#).
- The State Office of Financial Management (OFM) has released its April 1, 2024 population estimates. Fircrest’s 2020 population was 7,156, and the 2024 estimated population is 7,230.

**6. Police Department Update**

- Fircrest officers responded to 185 calls for service from 7/7/2024 to 7/14/2024, including 98 traffic stops, which generated 71 notices of infraction. The chart below provides additional information on call activity.

<b>Police Officer Activity for 7/7/24 – 7/14/24</b>			
<b>Call Activity</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>	<b>Call Activity</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>
Traffic Stops	98	Miscellaneous	11
Notice of Infraction	71	Motor Vehicle Collisions	2
Citations Issued	6	Noise Complaints	3
Misdemeanor Arrests	7	Parking Tickets	1
Alarms	2	Reports Written	20
Community Oriented Policing	6	Security Checks	5
Domestic Violence - Verbal	3	Subject Stops	1
Follow-Ups	4	Vehicle Prowls	3
Foot Patrols	1	Welfare Checks	10
Medical Aid Responses	8	911 Calls – Unknown	3

- The Civil Service Oral Board interviewed an exceptional entry-level applicant on July 16<sup>th</sup> and recommended moving the candidate forward into the background process.
- Police Chief Ron Schaub attended the South Sound 911 Board of Directors Meeting and the 2024 Department of Emergency Management Safety Summit this week.
- The Police Department is ready to support Fircrest Fun Days this weekend.

- The department leadership team met to continue fine-tuning the plans for the National Night Out event being held on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We are working with the Gracie Barra Jiu-Jitsu facility in Fircrest to host our defensive tactics course this fall.

## 7. Parks & Recreation Update

### *Administration*


- AHBL presented the preferred Whittier Park Master Plan design to the City Council at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Study Session. The master plan consultants received a variety of valuable comments and suggestions from the Council and will incorporate this feedback into a final master plan proposal. The master plan will return to the Council for adoption in the near future.
- Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Grover is applying for a Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant to replace the backstops at Fircrest Park. The Fircrest Park Backstop Restoration project includes replacing the three existing backstops on the youth baseball fields with safer structures and player dugouts, as well as installing safety fencing and netting between the fields. This project addresses the need to upgrade aging infrastructure, enhancing safety for participants and spectators. The Fircrest Park baseball fields are integral to the City's recreational activities, hosting baseball and softball leagues for a significant portion of the year. Erected initially between 1960 and 1962 by the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest and community volunteers, these backstops have exceeded their useful lifespan and require modern replacements to accommodate the numerous youth and community members who use the fields. Staff look forward to presenting the required authorizing resolution at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting and continuing work on this grant.

### *Recreation Programs*

- Summer Day Camp Registration – Spots are still available for our Day Camp for kids ages 7 – 12. The weekly price is \$165 for residents and \$195 for non-residents. Register at <https://fircrest.recdesk.com> or the Community Center. Don't miss out on this opportunity for your child to enjoy a summer filled with laughter and memories!
- Kickball League – The Parks & Recreation Kickball League kicked off last week. Games are played at Fircrest Park on Field #3 every Wednesday evening.
- Pickleball – Our new Open Pickleball League starts next week. This league is for adults only. Players can sign up as individuals or partners. League matches are on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The regular season is six weeks, with seeded play to crown a champion happening in week 7. Sign up online at [Open Pickleball League \(recdesk.com\)](https://fircrest.recdesk.com).

### *Aquatic Center*

Pool season is in full swing! Below are some highlights:

- Join us for a Hawaiian Pool Party tonight at the pool! This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> themed pool night of the season and takes place from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. 
  - The Fircrest Amateur Swim Team (FAST) competed at their second swim meet of the season on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. With one of the largest teams in the summer swim league, it's clear that our swimmers are having a fantastic time this summer!
  - Registration opened on July 18<sup>th</sup> for Fircrest residents and today for non-residents for the third session of swim lessons. For more information and to sign up, visit [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](https://fircrest.recdesk.com).
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- Weekend open swim times are 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 2:30 – 5:30 PM, and 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Weekday open swim times are 12:30 – 4:30 PM and 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Lap swim is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 – 7:30 AM.

Visit the Edwards Family Aquatic Center [webpage](#) for additional information on pool [admission](#), [schedules](#), [programs](#), and [rentals](#).

### ***Community Events***

- [Fircrest Fun Days](#) – Staff is gearing up for Fircrest Fun Days this weekend and eagerly anticipating the event’s kickoff tonight! We want to thank all the volunteers who have helped with planning and preparations leading up to our signature event. Without our volunteers and financial sponsors, an event of this magnitude would not be possible.

Some important event logistics to be aware of are:

- [Site Plan](#) – Electron Way between Pasadena Avenue and Contra Costa Avenue will be closed for the event. Food trucks will be lined up in this area.
- [Beer Garden](#) – The Beer Garden is located at the Fircrest Park Tennis Courts.
- [Vendor Booths & Entertainment](#) – All other activities will take place inside Fircrest Park.

For more information, visit <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/event/fircrest-fun-days>.

For more details about our Fircrest Fun community events, visit the Parks & Recreation Community Events page at [Community Events - City of Fircrest](#).

### ***Senior Programs***

- [Senior Trips](#) – Seniors had a great trip to Vashon Island on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. The next scheduled trip, set for Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, to Downtown Gig Harbor and the Farmers Market, is sold out. There are also still tickets available to the [Tacoma Rainiers](#) baseball game on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Each trip accommodates up to 13 participants. For more information, visit [Adult Classes & Sports | Active Adult Programs | City of Fircrest](#), and to register, go to [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](#) or register in person at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center located at 555 Contra Costa Avenue in Fircrest. Participants must have a valid RecDesk account to register.

Please call (253) 564-8177 or visit the City’s [Parks and Recreation Department](#) website for events and program information, class registration, facility rentals, questions on Parks & Recreation activities, and volunteer opportunities. Want to know more? Like us on Facebook at “City of Fircrest, Washington.”

## **8. Public Works Update**

Public Works' current summer operating hours are 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

This week’s highlights include:

### ***Utilities – Water, Sewer, Streets, and Stormwater***

- Summer hires are currently repainting white markings on City streets, including stop bars. Once the stop bars are completed, they will transition to yellow curb painting.
  - Staff cleared overgrown vegetation at the end of Alpine Lane.
  - Utility Foreman Jeff Davis is verifying measurements for roadway striping throughout the City. Local striping contractors have merged businesses, and new contacts are being made to complete the project.
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- We are preparing documents and bids for the sewer main pipe bursting at the 500 block of Buena Vista Avenue.
- We have been communicating with the City of Tacoma regarding the Leach Creek Holding Basin mitigation project. The contractor has begun mobilizing equipment and still needs to apply for permits with Tacoma. A construction start date has not yet been identified.

### ***Maintenance – Parks & Facilities***

- The Facilities staff is currently operating down one Maintenance Worker.
- The Tot Pool experienced circulation pump issues. The pump was removed and repaired.
- Manual sprinklers have been added to Fircrest Park on the south side of the pool to help green up the area.
- The Fircrest Park cherry tree vandalism investigation is ongoing. The WSU Plant Clinic analyzed bark samples and determined that the tree was likely to die.
- Lead Maintenance Worker Bryce Wakefield is working to get bids on installing a split air conditioning unit for the Pool Party Room.
- Staff cleaned up vegetation and removed tree branches on properties adjacent to the Whittier Trails on Forrest Park Drive and Altadena.
- Staff is prepping for Fircrest Fun Days. Alternating shifts have been scheduled to maintain staffing coverage throughout the event.

### ***Project Updates***

- Wellhouse #7 (Claremont)
    - Construction has been completed, and staff are reviewing the final invoice for payment.
  - Fircrest Park Maintenance Facility Structure Upgrade
    - Contract documents have been signed, and a notice to proceed is being prepared.
  - 44<sup>th</sup> Street West & 67<sup>th</sup> Ave West Lift Station Upgrade
    - The contractor is procuring equipment and materials in preparation to start construction, with Public Works staff continuing to review material submittals.
  - Stormwater Pre-Treatment Outfall Grant Project – Emerson Street & Estate Place
    - Final close-out Progress Reports and Payment Requests are in progress.
  - Emerson Street Sidewalk Extension (south side) – Woodside Drive to 67<sup>th</sup> Ave West
    - The 100% design was submitted for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.
  - South Orchard Street Grind & Overlay – TIB Grant Funded
    - A roundtable coordination meeting with contractors and consultants for both the Grind and Overlay and Water Main Upgrade projects was held this week.
    - Miles Resources is scheduled to begin construction on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, with a 42-day working schedule. This includes all ADA curb ramp upgrades and roadway marking installation.
    - An Interlocal Agreement between the City of Tacoma and the City of Fircrest is being presented to the City Council for approval at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.
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- Regents Blvd (west) Grind & Overlay – Alameda Ave to 67<sup>th</sup> Ave West
  - Documents were submitted to WSDOT on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Electron and Contra Costa Intersection Improvement – Legislative Funds
  - Design is in process.
- South Orchard Street Water Main Upgrade – Ramsdell Street to Holly Drive
  - A roundtable coordination meeting with contractors and consultants for both the Grind and Overlay and Water Main Upgrade projects was held this week.
  - Pape and Sons Construction is scheduled to begin the project on Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, and be completed by August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Claremont Street Grind & Overlay TIB Grant
  - Design is in process.
- AMI Water Meter Exchange Program
  - Meter exchanges are in progress, with program completion currently at 65%.
  - Public Works staff and the contractor are working together to expedite the project.
  - Summer hires continued meter box prep for exchanges.

TOTAL BY YEAR	
	Total
2019	11
2020	143
2021	444
2022	283
2023	296
2024	384

PROJECT UPDATE	
Total City Meter Connections	2,402
New Meters Installed	1,561
Remaining Meters to be Installed	841
Percentage of Completion	65%

## 9. Pierce Transit Long Range Plan

Over the next 20 years, Pierce County’s population will grow, new technologies will change how and why people travel, and the funding to deliver robust transit service will continue to be a challenge. To address and prepare for all of these changes, Pierce Transit is drafting its Long Range Plan called *Destination 2045*. The public is encouraged to provide input at various stages of the Plan’s development. The first phase of this public involvement in the Plan is a [survey](#) seeking input on Pierce Transit’s 20-year vision for transit in Pierce County. Please fill out the [survey](#) to contribute your feedback. To learn more about *Destination 2045* and Pierce Transit’s Long Range Plan process, please visit [Pierce Transit's Long Range Plans](#).

## 10. Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Grant

Pierce County was awarded \$1.8 million from the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate grant. These funds will be used for Pierce County households to improve energy efficiency, transfer to more energy-efficient electric appliances, and reduce utility costs. Residents interested in this program can apply for [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) services [online](#). Residents can also search for all available rebates and tax credits by their zip code at [The Switch Is On Washington](#).



## **11. Summer Lunch Program**

Metro Parks Tacoma is offering a lunch program for youth 18 and younger. Meals are served at various Tacoma parks on a first-come, first-served basis from 12:30 – 1:30 PM and must be eaten on-site. Additional information is available online at [Free Summer Playground & Lunch Program](#).

## **12. Summer Late Nights**

Summer Late Nights is a free drop-in program for middle school and high school students across the Tacoma area. Teens can get dinner and participate in open gym, art and music activities, and hang out with friends in a safe and supportive environment. Students can attend as often as they like and can drop in at the site assigned to them or the location nearest their home. This program is offered Monday through Friday from 5:00 – 10:00 PM. Parents/guardians are encouraged to register their child on the [Compass/TPS Family App](#). More information is available at [Summer Late Nights](#).

## **13. Sustainable Solutions Weekly Classes**

Pierce County offers a free class series – Sustainable Solutions – designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to create a more livable community for everyone. Weekly environmental education topics include gardening, composting, and energy conservation. The classes are led by experts from Pierce County Planning & Public Works, with each session offering practical insights and valuable tips for reducing your eco-footprint. Whether you're new to sustainability or a seasoned enthusiast, these classes will empower you with the resources to contribute to a healthier, more vibrant Pierce County.

Demystifying Curbside Recycling – Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, from Noon – 1:00 PM; Virtual on Zoom. Curious about recycling in Pierce County? What goes into your curbside recycling cart, and what needs to be thrown away? Where do recyclables go after they are collected? Are they really getting recycled? Get your recycling questions answered and learn the ins and outs of recycling right in Pierce County. To register, visit [Sustainable Solutions Series: Demystifying Curbside Recycling](#).

Edible Gardens: Preserving the Harvest – Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 AM – Noon; Hybrid (Virtual and In-person). Enjoy your summer abundance throughout the year! Learn the basics of freezing, dehydrating, and canning. To register, visit [Sustainable Solutions Series: Edible Gardens](#).

Cooking with Scraps – Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, from Noon – 1:00 PM; Virtual on Zoom. Learn several ways to save money and reduce food waste through meal planning, cooking with scraps, utilizing leftovers in creative ways, and preserving. To register, visit [Sustainable Solutions Series: Cooking with Scraps](#).

To view more upcoming classes, visit [Sustainable Solutions | Pierce County, WA - Official Website \(piercecountywa.gov\)](#).

## **14. Nisqually Tribe Notice of Intent for Environmental Impact Statement**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is gathering the information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with the Nisqually Indian Tribe's proposed casino project in the City of Lacey. The Tribe submitted a Fee-to-Trust application to the BIA requesting the placement of approximately 74.2 acres of fee land in trust by the United States upon which the Tribe would construct a casino resort with an event/multi-purpose center/museum. The proposed fee-to-trust property is located within the boundaries of the City of Lacey. Anyone wishing to comment should provide written comments by Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. A virtual public scoping meeting will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM. Additional information on the project, submitting written comments, and attending the virtual hearing is available at [www.nisquallycasinoeis.com](http://www.nisquallycasinoeis.com).

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