

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

Town Topics



The City of Fircrest bids a heartfelt farewell to two long-time employees this summer.

Finance Director Colleen Corcoran retired on July 19th after 30 years of dedicated service. Colleen joined the City on June 20, 1994, as an Administrative Technician, later becoming an Accountant in 1997. She was promoted to Finance Director on October 30, 2006. In her role as Finance Director, Colleen was instrumental in maintaining the City's fiscal stability and played a pivotal role in securing the Fircrest Parks Bond, leading to the construction of the new Roy H. Murphy Community Center and Edwards Family Aquatic Center. She also oversaw the City's information technology services, and served the City as Interim City Manager from September 2022 – May 2023.

Colleen has been an invaluable resource to all staff and the Council for her extensive knowledge of the City and its operations. On June 25th, the City Council honored her with a Proclamation of Appreciation for her contributions and commitment to the City of Fircrest. Colleen plans to enjoy her retirement camping, spending time with family, traveling, and visiting her happy place - Disneyland!

Utility Worker Jim Marzano has announced his retirement, effective August 31, 2024. Jim joined the City on September 19, 1988, and has been a valuable member of the Public Works team for the past 36 years. In 1991, Jim's brother, Tom Marzano, was also hired by the City, and the pair were inseparable, adding levity and fun to the department until Tom's passing. Jim has been instrumental in installing and maintaining miles of water, sewer, and storm mains and maintaining 7 sewer lift stations, 4 well sites, 3 reservoirs, and

over 530 catch basins water mains, ensuring reliable water and sewer service to over 2,400 utility customers. Jim also played a crucial role in converting the water system to chlorine. Jim's contributions also include operating the street sweeper, maintaining 26 miles of streets, installing and maintaining LED streetlights and traffic lights, and contributing to various beautification projects.

Jim is renowned for going the extra mile to assist citizens, always offering a helping hand and a smile. His compassion to go beyond his duties, especially in helping our elderly residents feel cared for, and his annual commitment to driving Santa's sleigh and giving out toys to the little ones cannot be replaced. In retirement, Jim looks forward to playing more golf and spending time with his family.



Although they will be greatly missed, we wish both Jim and Colleen much happiness and relaxation in their well-deserved retirement years.

Public Works: Property Owner Vegetation Maintenance

Property owners are responsible for maintaining private trees and all other vegetation in the right of way next to their property. It is a violation of Fircrest Municipal Code [22.62.005](#) to neglect overgrown vegetation and private trees that obstruct the right of way. Furthermore, overgrown vegetation and private trees create accessibility barriers for people with disabilities and therefore non-compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Guidelines for Keeping Your Right of Way Clear

Sidewalks:

- Trim back limbs and vegetation from the edge of the sidewalk.
- Ensure a clearance of at least eight feet above the sidewalk to prevent obstruction and provide safe passage for pedestrians, including those using mobility aids.

Streets/Alleys:

- Trim back limbs and vegetation from the curb or edge of the pavement.
- Maintain a vertical clearance of at least 14 feet above streets and alleys to allow for the safe passage of vehicles, including emergency and service vehicles.

General:

- Regularly inspect and trim or remove vegetation that blocks signal lights, traffic signs, and pedestrian signs to ensure they are clearly visible to both drivers and pedestrians.
- Remove any fallen branches or debris from the right of way promptly to prevent hazards.

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 are:

- 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 or to voice a concern.



MIDDLE HOUSING OPEN HOUSE

Where: Roy H. Murphy Community Center
When: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 from 6-9 PM

Our consultant, Kimley-Horn, will be in attendance sharing our Middle Housing strategies, engaging in small discussion groups, and obtaining community feedback.

For more information visit our website:
<https://www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/>

Spring 2024 Highlights

1. We are thrilled to welcome Natasha Kolostyak as our new Assistant Planner/Permit Coordinator. Please stop by City Hall to say hello.
2. Director Mark Newman remains busy coordinating the City's Middle Housing strategy and the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is currently being edited for consistency. Feedback from the public and important stakeholder groups is also being added. City photos and Centennial Celebration material will further enhance the document and make the Plan more fun to read.
3. The City recently underwent a Passport Acceptance Facility Oversight Inspection conducted by the US Department of State. Passport Specialist Laura Thompson received outstanding feedback on the City's processes. Great job, Laura!



Important Information

Please check out the City's Middle Housing website <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/> for past meeting materials from our July Open House presentation. Also included is a Q&A fact sheet, a public input survey, and a link to sign up for updates.

Police: Being a Good Witness

Our community's active involvement is a critical factor in solving crimes. We understand that this partnership is crucial in safeguarding our community from those who seek to exploit our citizens. Without this vital connection between citizens and the police department, crimes could remain unreported and unsolved.

The Fircrest Police Department relies on the community to report suspicious activity, crimes in progress, or crimes that have just occurred. Sometimes, a resident will observe suspicious activity but fail to report it to the police department. This is often because they don't want to be a bother or fear they may be embarrassed if the activity turns out to be "nothing." The FPD encourages citizens to call at the first sign of suspicious activity. You never bother us!!

Witnesses play a crucial role in the criminal justice system, providing essential information that can help solve crimes. Being a good witness involves more than just recounting what one has seen or heard. It requires a commitment to accuracy, reliability, and cooperation with law enforcement.

Being a good witness also means not putting yourself or others in danger. Remain calm enough to call the police and provide critical information. Some people's instincts are to scare suspects away, chase after them, or confront them after seeing a crime occur. It's better not to engage or get involved in a conflict with the suspect.

Being a good witness is a significant responsibility that requires careful observation, prompt reporting, honesty, and cooperation. Remember, your safety comes first! Don't be afraid to call the police department. "Crime Prevention is everyone's responsibility!" Please do not hesitate to call 911 immediately if you see ANYTHING or ANYONE that seems out of place or suspicious. We cannot do our jobs effectively without the help and assistance of those we serve. As always, let's watch out for each other, and by working together, we will keep Fircrest a wonderful place to live, work, and play.



Chief Ronald Schaub

Serving the Community Since 1925

Community Center

Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation

The Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation (FPRF) has donated a total of \$13,600 to the City of Fircrest Parks and Recreation Programs to date. As an independent grassroots non-profit organization, the FPRF is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of Fircrest Parks and Recreation facilities and programming, prioritizing community, livability, and equity. One of its key initiatives is the establishment of an endowment fund aimed at providing long-term support for the parks and recreation needs of Fircrest residents.

Grants from the FPRF enable the department to offer a wider range of recreational programs and activities, catering to the diverse interests and needs of the community, including youth programs, senior activities, and specialized recreation.

To support the FPRF, tax-deductible donations can be made via www.fircrestforever.com/donate, managed by their financial partner, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. These contributions are directed to the City of Fircrest through the Foundation, which oversees the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Funds.

Edwards Family Aquatic Center

As temperatures rise, we are making every effort to meet the growing demand from 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, including the swimmer-to-guard ratio, obstructions to vision, and the capabilities of the swimmers using the pool.

The public open swim sessions and swim lessons occupy a significant amount of pool time. To offer something for everyone, we have filled a few of the gaps with great programming, including our Water Aerobics classes taught by two of our dedicated senior lifeguards. Water Aerobics classes take place from 8-9 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

As always, our dedicated lifeguards and staff will be present to ensure your safety and provide any assistance you may require during your visits to the Edwards Family Aquatic Center. We kindly ask everyone to follow the pool rules and guidelines, including appropriate swimwear, parental supervision for children, and respectful behavior towards fellow swimmers.

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 with any questions regarding our upcoming programs or open public swim sessions at pool@cityoffircrest.net.

Parks and Rec

As we move through the heart of summer, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic events we've enjoyed over the past months. Our Parks & Recreation department has been bustling with activity, creating memorable experiences for our community. We kicked off the season with our annual Strawberry Festival, featuring amazing performances by local musicians, and the Kiwanis Club of Fircrest once again setting a new record with 1000+ strawberry shortcakes sold at the event. The community's turnout was the largest to date, and your enthusiastic support made this event a tremendous success.

On July 7th, Fircrest Parks and Recreation hosted the 36th Annual Fircrest Picnic and Rod Run, featuring 400 classic and special interest vehicles. The day was filled with stunning automobiles, delicious food, and fantastic music. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors Fircrest Towing, Griot's Garage, and especially the dedicated Kiwanis Club of Fircrest for cooking breakfast and lunch for participants and spectators.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported our summer events. Your energy and involvement have made these occasions truly special, creating lasting memories for all.



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.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER!

Small Business Spotlight: Paper Luxe & The Curious Bear Toy Shop

Starting as an online store in 2012, Jenn Luna and her mom, Laurie Hicks, opened their first Paper Luxe location in University Place in 2014, focusing on custom stationery and paper goods. As business grew, they moved the shop to its current Fircrest location on Mildred St. in 2017 and expanded into more gift categories. One year later, they leased the empty space next door as well, and created The Curious Bear Toy & Book Shop with a goal of bringing a modern twist to the traditional toy store.

Paper Luxe is your go-to destination for unique gifts, home goods, houseplants, stationery, and beautiful greeting cards. Whether you're looking for the perfect birthday present, a thoughtful thank-you note, or a little something to brighten someone's day, they've got you covered. Their carefully curated selection reflects their commitment to quality, local artisans, and love for helping customers celebrate their family and friends.

Next door, The Curious Bear Toy & Book Shop is a haven for children and the young at heart. From books that ignite imagination to toys that inspire creativity and play, the Curious Bear is designed to be a place where kids (and adults!) can explore, learn, and have fun, and caregivers can find quality, unique gifts. They strongly believe in the magic of childhood and strive to provide a welcoming environment where families can create lasting memories together.

Both stores offer many free and paid community events and workshops throughout the year, from storytimes with princesses and firefighters, to calligraphy and watercolor workshops. Be sure to check out their ongoing event listings here: thekindship.com/events. They are also the proud annual sponsor of the Scarecrows and Skeletons of Fircrest event, and donate various gifts and goods to Fircrest Fun Days and other local organizations.

Laurie has since retired and is greatly missed, but Jenn proudly still operates both Fircrest shops, as well as a second Paper Luxe location opened in 2021, that also includes Little Luxe, a baby boutique located inside Paper Luxe, and The Kindship Studio, a private event venue available for rent, all located at Uptown in Gig Harbor. She is married with three girls (ages 8, 16, and 18) and resides in UP (but wishes she lived in Fircrest!) Jenn and her amazing team of over 20 kind and passionate women, invite you to visit them at Paper Luxe and/or The Curious Bear and experience the warmth and personal touch that comes from a community-focused business.

Both stores offer their entire inventory online at paper-luxe.com and curiousbearstoys.com, they ship nationwide and offer free in-store pickup. Store hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm & Sunday 12pm-4pm. Online 24/7! Instagram and Facebook @paperluxeshop @curiousbearstoys

