



## City Manager's Update September 29, 2024

**To:** Fircrest City Council  
**From:** Dawn Masko, City Manager  
**Date:** September 29, 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. Centennial Celebration Volunteers

Are you ready to make history? The City's Centennial Celebration is just around the corner, and we want YOU to be a part of the excitement! This is your chance to join a vibrant team of volunteers and help bring our community's milestone to life.

We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to join various committees, including:

- Historical: Dive into our City's rich past!
- Sponsorship/Fundraising: Help secure the support we need to make this celebration unforgettable!
- Communications/Marketing: Spread the word and get everyone involved!
- Beautification: Help transform our city into a stunning backdrop for the festivities!
- Events & Activities: Plan and execute activities that will be talked about for years to come!

If you're excited to contribute your time and talents, we want to hear from you! Email us today at [Centennial@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:Centennial@cityoffircrest.net) and help us make this celebration truly spectacular.

#### 2. Council Meeting Agenda Items – October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – *All Items are Tentative*

- Public Hearing: 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
- Pierce Transit Presentation
- Whittier Park Master Plan Presentation
- Community Pool End of Season Report
- Pierce Transit Board Appointment – Final Ballot
- Resolution: Leavitt Group Insurance Broker Contract
- Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding – Police Schedule Change
- Resolution: Interlocal Agreement w/Steilacoom for Command Duty Services
- Resolution: Steilacoom Holiday Sleigh Agreement

### 3. Administration Update

Administration highlights include:

- City Clerk Arlette Burkhart researched options for the City's Centennial Celebration webpage. Councilmember Brett Wittner and City Clerk Burkhart visited the Senior Mornings group on Friday to promote interest in the Historical Research subcommittee. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer on this subcommittee, please email [aburkhart@cityoffircrest.net](mailto:aburkhart@cityoffircrest.net).
  - The Fircrest Employee Safety Meeting met on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the upcoming Employee Benefits Fair, the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill, quarterly inspections, and future training. This year's Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> and is a statewide opportunity to practice safety, emergency preparedness, and plans in case of a natural disaster. To learn more, please visit [The Great Washington ShakeOut - Get Ready!](#)
  - Employees are undergoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training as part of the formal yearly training program. Cybersecurity training is scheduled for October and is provided by the City's insurance carrier.
  - City Manager Dawn Masko continues to devote a significant amount of time to the 2025 budget process, including revenue projections, salary surveys, utility rate analysis, equipment replacement reserves, insurance cost allocations, ARPA fund reconciliation, and preparing budget summary documents. She also ensured that the preliminary revenue and expenditure filing was submitted to the City Clerk by the statutory deadline.
  - The Centennial Celebration Committee met on September 19<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on October 1<sup>st</sup> to continue discussions on events, a potential legacy project, and donations/sponsorships.
  - City Clerk Burkhart and Administrative Assistant Lee finalized details for the Employee Benefits Fair, which is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The event will provide employees the opportunity to engage with vendors, ask questions, and gather important information to make informed decisions as we approach open enrollment season.
  - City Manager Masko attended the International City Manager's Association annual conference this past week. Session topics included civic engagement, recruitment/retention, hot topics in local government, leading small communities, artificial intelligence, and emergency response.
  - The Recreation Leader job announcement is now live on the City website. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply at [Employment Opportunities - City of Fircrest](#).
  - City Clerk Burkhart, Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Grover, and parks staff received training from CIAW on formalizing a volunteer program. The training included volunteer risk management, recruitment/screening, policies, and supervision.
  - City Manager Masko edited Town Topics, drafted and edited materials for the Endangerment with a Controlled Substance ordinance in conjunction with the City Attorney, worked on contract renewals for the multiple contracts expiring at the end of the year, and began review of an ordinance for the establishment of a photo enforcement program.
  - City Clerk Burkhart worked with the City Attorney to finalize the Personal Device Search Form and Affidavit needed to maintain compliance with the Public Records Act. The form is used to reasonably detail and describe the accounts, devices, and locations searched in addition to names and search terms used to locate responsive records located on a City employee or elected official's personal device or personal accounts.
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- City Manager Masko continued work on the Middle Housing survey in collaboration with several interested citizens and Councilmembers and met with several attorneys on various legal matters.
- Congratulations to Police Officer Ed Garcia (4 years), Accountant Megan Ryan (3 years), Administrative Assistant Sierra Lee (2 years), Community Development Director Mark Newman (1 year), and Police Chief Ron Schaub (1 year) for their recent employment anniversaries! Additionally, Happy Birthday to Recreation Coordinator Ryan Brown, who recently celebrated his special day!
- The City received nineteen new public records requests these past few weeks, bringing the 2024 total to 246 requests. At this time last year, the City had received 194 public records requests.
- In the last 30 days, the City's website has had 22,008 page views from 9,009 users. Sessions are down 38%, and users are down 32% from the previous 30 days.

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

- The 2025 Preliminary Budget was presented to City Council on September 24, 2024. Finance staff are working with City Manager Masko to prepare for the first budget workshop being held on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Interim Finance Director Julie Dunbar attended the 69<sup>th</sup> annual Washington Finance Officers Association (WFOA) conference in Yakima last week. She attended courses covering ACH fraud, investment strategies, State Auditors Office (SAO) annual update, managing stress, artificial intelligence, budgeting as a policy tool, budgeting for operations, communicating the budget, BARS cash basis update, fighting fraud, and property taxes. The conference was excellent, and the knowledge gained will be shared with Finance staff.

#### **5. Police Department Update**

- Co-responder training with Multicare staff was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - An accident review board was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Lexipol Policy Manual was completed and rolled out.
  - The background on the 10<sup>th</sup> Police Officer lateral candidate has been completed.
  - Training on the new Pursuit Policy will be occurring soon.
  - The 12-Hour Schedule Trial Memorandum of Understanding is being reviewed.
  - Chief Ron Schaub met with Peoria Ford representative Cliff Kujala on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chief Schaub attended the South Sound 911 Board meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> and the Pierce County Chief Association's meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chief Schaub will be meeting with the Tacoma Deputy City Manager this coming week to discuss radio communications.
  - Fircrest officers' calls for service from 9/08/24 to 9/22/24 included 208 traffic stops, which generated 148 notices of infraction. The chart below provides additional information on call activity.
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<b>Police Officer Activity for 9/08/24 – 9/22/24</b>			
<b>Call Activity</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>	<b>Call Activity</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>
Traffic Stops	208	Motor Vehicle Collisions	3
Notice of Infraction	148	Noise Complaint	1
Citations Issued	15	Outside Jurisdiction Responses	7
Misdemeanor Arrests	16	Parking Problems	1
Alarms	4	Parking Tickets	8
Animal Complaint	1	Reckless Vehicle Complaint	1
Burglary – Residential	1	Reports Written	42
Citizen Assists	6	Security Checks	14
Citizen Flag Down	2	Special Emphasis	1
Community Policing	12	Subject Stops	4
Disorderly Conduct – Verbal	3	Suspicious Persons	6
Domestic Violence – Verbal	2	Suspicious Prowler	1
Domestic Violence - Weapon	1	Suspicious Vehicle	4
Fire (transferred to Fire Dept)	1	Theft	1
Follow-Ups	7	Theft – from Vehicle	6
Foot Patrols	8	Threats	1
Fraud – Check/Credit Card	1	Transport	2
Information	1	Unwanted Loiterer	4
Juvenile Problem	1	Vehicle Theft	2
Medical	14	Welfare Checks	13
Miscellaneous	12	911 Calls – Unknown	4

## **6. Planning & Building Update**

### Permitting & Current Planning

- We received three new over-the-counter (OTC) permits this week for plumbing and mechanical work. 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 on schedule to meet ten (10) business-day targets. As a reminder, applications are not routed for review until payment is received.
  - Assistant Planner Natasha Kolostyak and Community Development Director Mark Newman continue to assist several applicants with their single-family residential permits by providing code and architectural design requirements.
  - Staff is reviewing the application for the Parks Maintenance Facility upgrade at 424 Spring St.
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- The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Potential action following the public hearing may include a recommendation to the City Council on adopting the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. As always, the public is welcome to attend and provide public comment. Information on the draft Comprehensive Plan can be found on the [2024 Comprehensive Plan Update](#) webpage.
- The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7:15 PM or shortly thereafter in City Hall Council Chambers. As always, the public is welcome to attend and provide public comments. The City Council must adopt the 2024 Comprehensive Plan by December 31, 2024.
- Fall weather with wind and rain are right around the corner. Consider hiring a contractor to complete a home inspection to check for roof leaks or cracks in your foundation that could lead to water issues. If you have tall trees on your lot, consider hiring an arborist to provide a tree risk assessment for your home.

### Code Enforcement

- The City did not receive any new code enforcement requests this week. Staff continues to follow up on existing cases, with 62 cases received this year.

### Long Range Planning

- The Hanover Company's proposal for an approximately 320-unit mixed-use multifamily project at 2119 Mildred Street West is currently on hold due to a variety of issues involving financing for the sewer utility requirements placed on the site by Pierce County.
  - CD Director Newman is reviewing a pre-application request for a potential townhome development along several vacant Orchard Street properties, commonly known as the Bourgaize Property. The applicant has indicated an interest in presenting their ideas to the Planning Commission during a future meeting to gauge interest in rezoning the site to support townhomes. The proposal includes leaving a majority of the site undisturbed to protect wetlands and steep slope critical area buffers. More information will be available at a later date.
  - CD Director Newman is continuing to coordinate with Tacoma Public Schools regarding tree replanting at Wainwright Intermediate School, anticipated to occur in November.
  - Additional materials from various summer presentations are available on the Middle Housing [webpage](#) at <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/>. The City is currently drafting a Middle Housing survey to send out to all households to solicit their opinions.
  - CD Director Newman updated the Middle Housing webpage with additional materials from the various summer presentations. They are available to view at <https://www.cityoffircrest.net/middle-housing/>. The City is currently drafting a Middle Housing survey to send out to all households to solicit their opinions.
  - CD Director Newman is coordinating with South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHA<sup>3</sup>P) to draft an emergency housing land capacity analysis to meet state requirements.
  - CD Director Newman is preparing to submit for a Pierce County Flood Control Zone grant for reimbursement of activities associated with the Leach Creek Pre-Treatment Outfall work.
  - CD Director Newman filed notice with the Department of Commerce regarding the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update so that the state can begin conducting its review of the Plan.
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## 7. Parks & Recreation Update

### *Administration*

The Recreation staff is currently updating the Parks and Recreation webpage to enhance both its functionality and accessibility. This includes reformatting the clickable icons for a cleaner and more user-friendly design. We are also streamlining the overall layout to improve navigation, making it easier for users to find information quickly. In addition to these improvements, we are working to ensure that the page is compliant with ADA standards, prioritizing accessibility for all users, including those with disabilities. These updates will make the site more intuitive, efficient, and inclusive for the community.



### *Parks*

- Whittier Park Master Plan – Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Grover recently met with AHBL to finalize the Whittier Park Master Plan. Our consultants are preparing the final version for City Council consideration and adoption soon.

Next steps of the process will involve identifying specific projects that can be completed and staging these projects thoughtfully, ensuring they align with the community's vision, which was shaped through a highly engaged planning process. Director Grover recommends collaborating with an experienced construction design consultant to execute each phase strategically, and to avoid projects that don't align with the bigger picture of the Master Plan. This careful approach will help us meet community needs while maintaining focus on the long-term vision for Whittier Park. We're excited to begin the next chapter for Whittier Park and create a space that reflects the wishes of the Fircrest community.

- Whittier Park Work Party – The Pierce Conservation District is hosting a 3-hour park stewardship event at Whittier Park on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Work party activities include caring for existing plants and removing invasive species like Himalayan blackberry and thistle. This work supports local wildlife, pollinators, and water quality, contributing to healthier ecosystems. Tasks will vary but will focus on improving open spaces and maintaining thriving forests that filter rainwater, produce clean oxygen, and provide habitats. Volunteers should wear sturdy, weather-appropriate clothing and bring a full water bottle. A parent or guardian must accompany youth under 14. Additional information and meeting location will be shared upon registration. Sign up at [Pierce CD - Whittier Park Work Party](#).

- Fred Flintstone was a beloved carved tree stump figure that stood proudly in the Gene Goodwin Memorial Tot Lot for several decades. Over time, termites made their way into the stump, gradually weakening its structure. What began as minor, barely noticeable signs soon became visible damage. The once-solid bear grew fragile, with cracks forming and parts of the carving giving way. Despite Fred's sturdy exterior, he could no longer support his weight. The fine details of his design started to crumble, and eventually, large sections broke off. Upon removing Fred, we discovered his interior had completely deteriorated due to termites and rot. But there's exciting news! The Parks and Recreation staff is currently working with the Fircrest Kiwanis on a new carving for the Tot Lot, with hopes of unveiling it during the City's Centennial Celebration in 2025. We're confident that the legacy of wood-carved stumps will live on, and this new piece of art will honor our past while celebrating the community's bright future.



## Recreation Programs




- Many of our fall programs are now underway. Our staff is actively supporting instructors and planning for upcoming programs that will continue to be offered throughout October.
- Dance Movement Flow classes will begin on October 15<sup>th</sup> and run through November 19<sup>th</sup>. This class is offered from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM for kids ages 3-5 years old. The goal of Dance Movement Flow is to provide children with a safe, positive, and therapeutic outlet where they can express themselves through movement and communicate in alternate ways. This program is designed to provide tools that support physical, emotional, and mental health, giving participants a holistic way to engage and grow. The class is led by Rishena, who has 19 years of experience in teaching dance and has worked in the mental health field, primarily with children, for the past seven years. This blend of expertise ensures that the program not only fosters creativity but also promotes overall well-being. Register at [Dance Movement Flow \(Ages 3-5\) \(recdesk.com\)](https://recdesk.com).
- The second year of our [Youth Cross Country Program](https://recdesk.com) is off to a great start with 35 enthusiastic runners! Ryan Brown, a distinguished member of the UW Track and Field Hall of Fame, is once again leading the program. Ryan is guiding our runners through the health and wellness benefits of Cross County, continuing to build on the success of last year's program.
- We're pleased to announce the launch of our WRK ZONE Video Gaming Club, an after-school program running Wednesdays from October 9<sup>th</sup> through December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The minimum age is 11 years old as of September 29, 2024, and the maximum age is 15 years old as of December 12, 2024. Registration begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and includes an afterschool snack and drink and a TeamWrk T-shirt for first-time participants. Register at [WRK! ZONE Video Gaming Club \(recdesk.com\)](https://recdesk.com).
- Registration for youth basketball begins at 6:00 PM on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The 2025 season divisions are [K/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Co-Ed](https://recdesk.com), [2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Co-Ed](https://recdesk.com), and [4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys](https://recdesk.com).
- Registration for Slime Saturday is now open. Get ready to dive into some fall-themed fun with gooey, stretchy slime creations in vibrant colors sprinkled with glitter, leaf confetti, and more. One of the slimes will even be edible – perfect for adding a tasty twist to this hands-on activity! In addition to making slime, there will be slime-themed games and activities to keep the excitement going. It's the perfect way for kids to enjoy a creative DIY project as the weather cools down. Kids ages 7 to 12 years are welcome. Fircrest residents are \$15, and non-residents are \$20. Sign up [online](https://recdesk.com) and join us for a sticky, fun-filled day!



## Community Events

- [Scarecrows & Skeletons of Fircrest](https://recdesk.com) – Registration for the [2024 Scarecrows & Skeletons of Fircrest Display Contest](https://recdesk.com) is in full swing. Two dozen households have already signed up. This is not your ordinary scarecrow-building competition. Your goal is to make the most creative and unique scarecrow or skeleton in Fircrest. Your display can be whimsical, happy, and/or scary! It can include a single creative scarecrow or skeleton or create a massive display with both. However, there are a few simple rules to adhere to:



-  Keep it clean (PG-rated for our young community members).
  -  Your display must be visible from the street.
  -  The display must be made by you (not purchased, rented, or borrowed). Of course, the basic skeleton can be purchased!
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Homes must be decorated and ready for viewing by October 11<sup>th</sup>.



You must be a Fircrest resident to enter the contest.



There is no entry fee, but you must register to participate. Space is limited, so register now before all spots are filled. A list of registered homes for self-guided tours will be available on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Judging occurs October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, with winners announced on October 28<sup>th</sup>.



A Huge Thank You to Paper Luxe for their generous sponsorship of this event!

- Haunted Trails – Tickets are on sale for this year’s “**THE FIRCREST INCIDENT**” Haunted Trails event, being held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at Thelma Gilmur Park. Advance tickets are **required** and can be purchased online at [Haunted Trails \(Group A, 6 PM - 7 PM\)](#) or [Haunted Trails \(Group B, 7 PM - 8 PM\)](#). Additional information is available on the City’s website at [Programs \(recdesk.com\)](#).
- FIRfest - Join us for FIRfest on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Whittier Park. Community members will have the chance to receive a free tree and participate in a work party dedicated to preserving the park’s green spaces. More information can be found at [FIRfest 2024 - City of Fircrest](#).
- Holiday Market and Tree Lighting Ceremony – Staff is actively planning for this upcoming holiday event, scheduled for Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Holiday Market will take place from Noon to 8:00 PM at the Roy H. Murphy Community Center, featuring 32 vendors offering a variety of holiday gifts and treats. In addition to shopping, the day will be filled with entertainment, including performances by the Whittier Choir and the Silas High School Show Choir. We’ve also extended an invitation to the Wainwright Choir and are awaiting their confirmation.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover and Events Coordinator Judy Schmidtke are continuing to develop ideas and programming for the Centennial Celebration and Community Engagement subcommittee, working on ways to ensure the 2025 celebration is both memorable and inclusive for all residents.

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

### ***Senior Programs***

November Senior Trip – Our senior trips have been a huge success and sell out quickly. Registration for the November trip opens on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Don’t miss your opportunity to sign up for the November 7<sup>th</sup> trip to [LeMay America’s Car Museum](#). The first stop of the morning will be to the nostalgic Tacoma Pioneer Telephone Museum located at the ATT building which was built in 1931 and originally housed the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. After lunch at the Fish Peddler down on Foss Waterway, the trip will continue at America’s Car Museum (ACM). The ACM collection consists of automotive artifacts and 250 automobiles spanning over 100 years of automotive history, plus approximately another 100 vehicles on exhibit, loaned from private collections. Participants will also have the opportunity to view the open storage galleries for collection vehicles that are not on active display. The \$30 fee includes transportation and admission to the museums. Participants are responsible for their lunch. Visit [Senior Trip - LeMay America's Car Museum](#) for more information and to register.

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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 is switching to winter hours of 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

This week's highlights include:

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

- The Utilities staff is currently operating down one Utility Worker.
- Public Works (PW) staff, along with S&B, the City's SCADA provider, triaged and corrected SCADA communication issues with the Alameda Lift Station. Coordination to upgrade SCADA communications for after-hours response is ongoing.
- Overhead streetlight LED upgrades at the Public Safety Building, Whittier Park parking lot, and the south entrance to Whitter Elementary School on Annapolis Street were completed.
- PW crews repaired a water main at the 400 block of Stanford Street.
- Delinquent utility billing shut-offs occurred on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The mobile sweeper is back in service as of September 19<sup>th</sup> following repairs. The initial focus is to sweep main arterials before returning to the regular street sweeping schedule.
- Our last seasonal worker's final day was on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The Facilities staff is currently operating down one Maintenance Worker.
- The failed floor drain at the Public Safety Building was repaired.
- The Kiddie Pool was drained and winterized.
- A malfunctioning pool heater was repaired.
- Trail cleanup and maintenance occurred at all parks.

### ***Project Updates***

- Fircrest Park Maintenance Facility Structure Upgrade
    - The contractor has submitted all documents and plans for review by the Planning and Building Department.
    - Staff have cleared out the existing structure in preparation for construction.
  - 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 reviewing material submittals.
    - A contract extension is being prepared due to supply chain impacts. The SCADA cabinet is tentatively scheduled to arrive this coming December or January of 2025.
  - South Orchard Street Grind & Overlay – TIB Grant Funded
    - The installation of permanent pavement markings was completed on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - ADA push button materials are anticipated to arrive in early November. Upgrades will be completed once the materials are received.
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- Electron and Contra Costa Intersection Improvement – Legislative Funds
  - 100% design review is in process.
  - Documents for construction bid are being prepared to post by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Emerson Street Sidewalk Extension (south side) – Woodside Drive to 67<sup>th</sup> Ave West
  - Final WSDOT review is in process.
  - We are preparing to post for construction bids.
- Regents Blvd (west) Grind & Overlay – Alameda Ave to 67<sup>th</sup> Ave West
  - Design is in process.
  - Ongoing biweekly coordination meetings are occurring.
- Claremont Street Grind & Overlay TIB Grant
  - Design is in process.
- Sewer Main Pipe Bursting at the 500 block of Buena Vista Avenue
  - The Contractor has started mobilizing equipment and materials.
  - Property owner outreach and notification has been completed.
  - Preliminary construction and site prep are scheduled to begin Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- AMI Water Meter Exchange Program
  - Meter exchanges are in progress. The project is 77% complete, with 541 residential meters remaining to be exchanged.

TOTAL BY YEAR	
	Total
2019	11
2020	143
2021	444
2022	283
2023	296
2024	684

PROJECT UPDATE	
Total City Meter Connections	2,402
New Meters Installed	1,861
Remaining Meters to be Installed	541
<b>Percentage of Completion</b>	<b>77%</b>

## 9. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners Advisory Board Members

[South Sound Housing Affordability Partners](#) (SSHA<sup>3</sup>P) is seeking Advisory Board Members. Interested parties must apply by October 27<sup>th</sup> to be considered during the first review of applications. The SSHA<sup>3</sup>P Advisory Board provides the Executive Board with recommendations on the annual SSHA<sup>3</sup>P budget, work plan, legislative agenda, and policy and program recommendations for member governments. The Advisory Board includes people with experience living in affordable housing, developers and managers of affordable/attainable housing, and advocates and advisors who work on land use and housing issues. Members are committed to the furtherance of improving access to affordable/attainable housing for all in Pierce County. To apply, please visit [South Sound Affordable Housing - Advisory Board](#).

## 10. Swasey Library Temporary Closure

The Swasey Library, located at 7001 Sixth Avenue in Tacoma, is closed for an estimated six weeks to update its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Book drops are closed while repairs are underway. Visit the [Swasey Library](#) webpage for more information.

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## 11. FBI National Crime Data

The FBI released its Crime in the US 2023 data on September 23, 2024. Data for Washington State had previously been released by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in July 2024, and the FBI used that data to create its national report.

A comparison of crime data from 2019 to 2023 reveals significant trends:

- In Washington State, the murder rate has increased by over 80% since 2019 and is more than five times higher than the national trend (87.4% vs. 17.2%).
- Violent crime rates in Washington have increased by 19.6% over the past five years, while they have decreased by 4.1% nationally.
- Aggravated assault rates in Washington have increased 27.3% since 2019, compared to a 5.6% increase nationally.
- Vehicle theft rates in Washington have increased by 110.2% since 2019 while rising 44.9% nationally.
- The vehicle theft rate in Washington is more than double the national average, with 673.7 incidents per 100,000 residents in WA State versus 318.7 per 100,000 nationally.
- While the rate of robberies in Washington has increased 19.8% over the past five years, national rates have decreased by 18.5%.

WASPC is calling on our state's policymakers to provide balanced public safety approaches that respect victims, provide for adequate and meaningful consequences for criminal behavior, support fair and transparent policing, and increase staffing and support for law enforcement.

Additional information can be found at [FBI Crime Data Explorer](#).

## 12. 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.

Edible Gardens: Putting the Garden to Bed – Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in person at the WSU Victoria Room. Learn tips and techniques for winter that will enrich your soil and ease springtime planting. To register, visit the [2024 Edible Gardens Workshop Series](#).

The Switch Is On! Make Your Home More Energy Efficient – Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Virtual on Zoom. When you switch your home appliances from gas to electric, you can count on improved comfort, better air quality, lower utility costs, and reduced carbon emissions. Learn about the benefits of home electrification, how to get started, and where to find information about rebates and incentives to help pay for your switch! To register, visit [Sustainable Solutions Series: The Switch Is On! Make Your Home More Energy Efficient](#).

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

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### 13. Fall Cleanup Days

Westside Disposal Spring Cleanup Days for Fircrest residents **only** are Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Westside Disposal is located at 2815 Rochester St. West in University Place (1/2 block south of Cheers). Residents may bring in the following items for disposal and recycling: Miscellaneous junk, yard waste, wood, metal, concrete, tires, car batteries, etc. No liquids, paint, or hazardous materials will be accepted. There is a limit of one load per household for all items except yard waste. There is no limit for yard waste loads only. Trucks and trailers larger than a standard pickup bed are not allowed. Please make sure to secure all loads!

### 14. Pierce County Emergency Alerts

Every day around our country, events happen that highlight the critical importance of emergency preparedness. Taking proactive steps now can help protect you and your loved ones during emergencies that may occur where you live, work, visit, or play.

Emergency alert notification systems provide timely updates about urgent situations in specific areas. These systems allow you to receive alerts via text, phone, or email, and many offer the ability to customize the types of alerts you receive.

Fircrest residents have access to two notification systems for critical safety updates. Signing up for both ensures you stay informed no matter where you are. If you work in another county, it's also a good idea to enroll in that area's alert system. Below are the options available for Fircrest residents:

1. [Tacoma Alert](#) uses the CodeRED system to send notifications about issues near your home, business, school, or other important locations. You can also download the CodeRED app, which will notify you of emergencies based on your current location if your phone's location services are enabled. Many Pierce County cities use CodeRED, so if you commute or travel through these areas, you'll have access to emergency updates.

Tacoma Alert is address-based, meaning you'll receive alerts relevant to the location(s) you enter. If you choose not to enter an address, you'll receive all alerts sent citywide. You can also sign up with the address of a family member or loved one to stay informed about emergencies that might affect them. CodeRED offers both emergency and non-emergency updates to keep you informed.

2. [Pierce County ALERT](#) is a free notification system that provides information about emergencies affecting the locations you select, such as your home, workplace, or your children's school. This system is used by fire, police, and other emergency agencies to send accurate, up-to-date information directly to residents. Alerts can be sent to multiple devices, including your cell phone, home phone, email, and TTY. You can register up to five locations you want to be notified about.

By signing up for both [Tacoma Alert](#) and [Pierce County ALERT](#), you'll be well-prepared to stay informed and respond quickly in the event of an emergency.

### 15. Voter Registration

The General Election is on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't registered to vote yet, there is still time to do so. There are three ways to register to vote: online, by mail, and in person. The deadline to register online and by mail is October 28<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register in person is November 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM. Learn more about registering by visiting [Register to Vote | Pierce County, WA - Official Website \(piercecountywa.gov\)](#).

